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churches, your towns, your county government. I think that it is a misnomer when you say that this is not going to be in the best interest of the people entirely within the area. I think that when it comes to a critical point where that water has been depleted to the point that it is critical, then you're going to have to face up to the responsibilities and give someone the authority to restrict drilling of more wells until the thing has leveled off where it can be used . . . where the waters still there can be used to the most beneficial use of those people in the area. I do not oppose returning this bill because there are other amendments to be heard. I certainly oppose repeal of the amendment I presently have on there.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: A question of Senator Lewis please.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Yes sir.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Lewis, is there anything in this bill that would bring to a halt the problem which you've described that existed in your area at this time?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: The problem that exists presently cannot be halted here but it can keep from spreading if they are permitted to limit drilling of new wells.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Another question then. You mentioned the 60 wells owned by a corporation. Isn't that true this is a family corporation of four brothers?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: One is a family corporation with huge other holdings. I have no complaint on that. The other . . . the limited partnership is all foreign capital, none within the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Alright then I'd like to ask you another question. Would you have objection to this water being pumped if it were owned by we'll say 30 farmers rather than 4? Would you have the same . . . would you want to impose the same restrictions on the pumping of water if it were being done by 30 individual farms instead of only four?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: If the water is depleted to the point where it is critical to the area it should be limited . . . the drilling of new wells should be limited whether the ownership is in one family or 40 families.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. I think this is what it boils down to, very bluntly, and Senator Lewis has pointed it out. The water is going to be used one way or another. It's going to be used by one farmer, and it's going to be used by 20,000 farmers. It's going to be used for a variety of purposes. How it's used, where it's used, to what purpose it's used, that responsibility to a certain extent is going to be decided by this Legislature. It's going to be deter-